

Enter Volumnia and Virgilia, mother and wife to Martius:
They set them downe on two lowe stools and sowe.

Volum. I pray you daughter sing, or expresse your selfe in a more comfortable sort: If my Sonne were my Husband, I should freelier reioyce in that absence wherein he wonne Honor, then in the embracements of his Bed, where he would shew most loue. When yet hee was but tender-bodied, and the onely Sonne of my womb; when youth with comelinesse pluck'd all gaze his way; when for a day of Kings entreaties, a Mother should not sel him an houre from her beholding; I considering how Honour would become such a person, that it was no better then Picture-like to hang by th' wall, if renowne made it not stirre, was pleas'd to let him seeke danger, where he was like to finde fame: To a cruell Warre I sent him, from whence he return'd, his browes bound with Oake. I tell thee Daughter, I sprang not more in ioy at first hearing he was a Man-child, then now in first seeing he had proued himselfe a man.

Virg. But had he died in the Businesse Madame, how then?

Volum. Then his good report should haue beene my Sonne, I therein would haue found issue. Heare me profess sincerely, had I a dozen sons each in my loue alike, and none lesse deere then thine, and my good Martius, I had rather had eleuen dye Nobly for their Countrey, then one voluptuously surfeit out of Action.

Enter a Gentlewoman.

Gent. Madam, the Lady Valeria is come to visit you.

Virg. Beseech you giue me leaue to retire my selfe.

Volum. Indeed you shall not:

Me thinks, I heare hither your Husbands Drumme: See him plucke Aufidius downe by th' haire: (As children from a Beare) the Volces shunning him: Me thinks I see him stampe thus, and call thus, Come on you Cowards, you were got in feare Though you were borne in Rome; his bloody brow With his mail'd hand, then wiping, forth he goes Like to a Haruest man, that task'd to mowe Or all, or loose his hyre.

Virg. His bloody Brow? Oh Iupiter, no blood.

Volum. Away you Foole; it more becomes a man, Then gilt this Trophe. The breits of Hecuba

When she did suckle Hector, look'd not louelier

Then Hector's forehead, when it spit forth blood

At Grecian sword. Contemning, tell Valeria

We are fit to bid her welcome. *Exit Gent.*

Vir. Heauens blesse my Lord from fell Aufidius.

Vol. Hee'l beat Aufidius head below his knee, And treade vpon his necke.

Enter Valeria with an Vsher, and a Gentlewoman.

Val. My Ladies both good day to you.

Vol. Sweet Madame,

Vir. I am glad to see your Ladyship.

Val. How do you both? You are manifest house-keepers. What are you sowing heere? A fine spotte in good faith. How does your little Sonne?

Vir. I thanke your Ladyship: Well good Madame.

Vol. He had rather see the swords, and heare a Drum, then looke vpon his Schoolmaster.

Val. A my word the Fathers Sonne: He sweare 'tis a very pretty boy. A my troth, I look'd vpon him a Week-day halfe an houre together: ha's such a confirm'd coun-

tenance. I saw him run after a gilded Butterfly, & when he caught it, he let it go againe, and after it againe, and ouer and ouer he comes, and vp againe: catcht it again: or whether his fall enrag'd him, or how 'twas, hee did so set his teeth, and teare it. Oh, I warrant how he mammoct it.

Vol. One on's Fathers moods.

Val. Indeed la, tis a Noble childe.

Virg. A Cracke Madam.

Val. Come, lay aside your stitchery, I must haue you play the idle Huswife with me this afternoone.

Virg. No (good Madam)

I will not out of doores.

Val. Not out of doores?

Volum. She shall the shall.

Virg. Indeed no, by your patience; Hee not ouer the threshold, till my Lord returne from the Warres.

Val. Fye, you confine your selfe most vnreasonably: Come, you must go visit the good Lady that lies in.

Virg. I will wish her speedy strength, and visit her with my prayers: but I cannot go thither.

Volum. Why I pray you.

Virg. 'Tis not to saue labour, nor that I want loue.

Val. You would be another Penelope: yet they say, all the yearne she spun in Ulysses absence, did but fill Attica full of Mothes. Come, I would your Cambrick were sensible as your finger, that you might leaue pricking in for pittie. Come you shall go with vs.

Vir. No good Madam, pardon me, indeed I will not forth.

Val. In truth la go with me, and Ile tell you excellent newes of your Husband.

Virg. Oh good Madam, there can be none yet.

Val. Verily I do not iest with you: there came newes from him last night.

Vir. Indeed Madam.

Val. In earnest it's true; I heard a Senatour speake it. Thus it is: the Volcies haue an Army forth, against who Cominius the Generall is gone, with one part of our Roman power. Your Lord, and Titus Lartius, are set down before their Citie Corioles, they nothing doubt preuailling, and to make it breefe Warres. This is true on mine Honor, and so I pray go with vs.

Virg. Giue me excuse good Madame, I will obey you in euery thing heereafter.

Vol. Let her alone Ladic, as she is now:

She will but diseafe our better mirth.

Valeria. In troth I thinke she would:

Fare you well then. Come good sweet Ladie.

Prythee Virgilia turne thy solemnesse out a doore,

And go along with vs.

Virgil. No

At a word Madame; Indeed I must not,

I wish you much mirth.

Val. Well, then farewell. *Exeunt Ladies*

Enter Martius, Titus Lartius, with Drumme and Colours, with Captaines and Souldiers, as before the Citie Corioles: to them a Messenger.

Martius. Yonder comes Newes:

A Wager they haue met.

Lar. My horse to yours, no.

Mar. 'Tis done.

Lar. Agreed. *Mr.*

Mar. Say, ha's our Generall met the Enemy?

Mess. They lye in view, but haue not spoke as yet.

Lar. So, the good Horse is mine.

Mar. Ile buy him of you.

Lar. No, Ile nor sel, nor giue him: Lend you him I will

For halfe a hundred yeares: Summon the Towne.

Mar. How farre off lie these Armies?

Mess. Within this mile and halfe.

Mar. Then shall we heare their Latum, & they Ours.

Now Mars, I prythee make vs quicke in worke,

That we with smoaking swords may march from hence

To helpe our fielded Friends: Come, blow thy blast.

They sound a Parley: Enter two Senators with others on the Walles of Corioles.

Tullus Aufidius, is he within your Walles?

1. Senat. No, nor a man that feares you lesse then he,

Thar's lesse then a little. *Drum a farre off.*

Hecke, our Drummes

Are bringing forth our youth: Wee'l breake our Walles

Rather then they shall pound vs vp our Gates,

Which yet seeme shut, we haue but pin'd with Rushes,

They le open of themselves. Harke you, farre off

Alarmum farre off.

There is Aufidius. Lift what worke he makes

Amongst your clouen Army.

Mart. Oh they are at it.

Lar. Their noise be our instruction. Ladders ho.

Enter the Army of the Volces.

Mar. They feare vs not, but issue forth their Citie.

Now put your Shields before your hearts, and fight

With hearts more prooue then Shields.

Aduaunce braue Titus,

They do disdain vs much beyond our Thoughts,

which makes me sweat with wrath. Come on my fellows

He that retires, Ile take him for a Volce,

And he shall feele mine edge.

Alarmum, the Romans are beat back to their Trenches

Enter Martius (singing).

Mar. All the contagion of the South, light on you,

You Shames of Rome: you Heard of Byles and Plagues

Plaster you o're, that you may be abhor'd

Farther then seene, and one infect another

Against the Winde a mile: you foules of Geese,

That beare the shapen of men, how haue you run

From Slaues, that Apes would beate; Pluto and Hell,

All hurt behinde, backes red, and faces pale

With sight and agued feare, mend and charge home,

Or by the fires of heauen, Ile leaue the Foe,

And make my Warres on you: Looke too't: Come on,

If you'l stand fast, wee'l beate them to their Wiues,

As they vs to our Trenches followes.

Another Alarmum, and Martius follows them to gates, and is shut in.

So, now the gates are ope: now proue good Seconds,

'Tis for the followers Fortune, widens them,

Not for the flyers: Marke me, and do the like.

Enter the Gati.

1. Sol. Foole-hardinesse, not I.

2. Sol. Nor I.

1. Sol. See they haue shut him in. *Alarmum continues*

All. To th' pot I warrant him. *Enter Titus Lartius*

Tit. What is become of Martius?

Al. Slaue (Sir) doublelesse.

1. Sol. Following the Flyers at the very heeles,

With them he enters: who vpon the sodaine

Clapt to their Gates, he is himselfe alone;

To answer all the City.

Lar. Oh Noble Fellow!

Who sensibly out-dares his fencelesse Sword,

And when it bowes, stand'st vp: Thou art left Martius,

A Carbuncle intire: as big as thou art

Weare not so rich a Jewell. Thou was't a Souldier

Euen to Calues wish, not fierce and terrible

Onely in strokes, but with thy grim lookes, and

The Thunder-like percussion of thy sounds

Thou mad'st thine enemies shake, as if the World

Were Peauorous, and did tremble.

Enter Martius bleeding, assaulted by the Enemy.

1. Sol. Looke Sir,

Lar. O 'tis Martius.

Let's fetch him off, or make remaine alike.

They fight, and all enter the City.

Enter certaine Romanes with spoiles.

1. Rom. This will I carry to Rome.

2. Rom. And I this.

3. Rom. A Murrain on't, I tooke this for Siluer. *Exeunt.*

Alarmum continues still a farre off.

Enter Martius, and Titus with a Trumpet.

Mar. See heere these mouers, that do prize their hours

At a crack'd Drachme: Cushions, Leaden Spooones,

Irons of a Doit, Dublets that Hangmen would

Bury with those that wore them. These base slaues,

Ere yet the fight be done, packe vp, downe with them.

And harke, what noyse the Generall makes: To him

There is the man of my foules hate, Aufidius,

Piercing our Romanes: Then Valiant Titus take

Conuenient Numbers to make good the City,

Whil'st I with those that haue the spirit, wil haste

To helpe Cominius.

Lar. Worthy Sir, thou bleed'st,

Thy exercise hath bin too violent,

For a second course of Fight.

Mar. Sir, praise me not:

My worke hath yet not warm'd me. Fare you well:

The blood I drop, is rather Physicall

Then dangerous to me: To Aufidius thus, I will appear

Lar. Now the faire Goddess Fortune, (and fight)

Fall deepe in loue with thee, and her great charmes

Misguide thy Opposers swords, Bold Gentleman:

Prosperity be thy Page.

Mar. Thy Friend no lesse,

Then those she placeth highest: So farewell.

Lar. Thou worthiest Martius,

Go sound thy Trumpet in the Market place;

Call thither all the Officers a'th' Towne,

Where they shall know our minde. Away. *Exeunt*

Enter Cominius as it were in retire, with soldiers.

Com. Breath you my friends, wel fought, we are come

Like Romans, neither foolish in our stands, *(off,*

Nor Cowardly in retyre: Beleeue me Sirs,

We shall be charg'd againe. Whiles we haue strooke

By Interims and conueying gifts, we haue heard

The Charges of our Friends. The Roman Gods,

Leade their successes, as we wish our owne,

That both our powers, with smiling Fronts encountering,

May giue you thankfull Sacrifice. Thy Newes?

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. The Cittizens of Corioles haue yssued,

And giuen to Lartius and to Martius Battaille: